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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8923  
INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4592  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2403  
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0980  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0827  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 0155  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0854  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3032

UNCLAS COLOMBO 001044

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/UNP, DRL AND SCA/RA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PHUM UNGA BM KN IR MV

SUBJECT: MALDIVES WILL VOTE WITH U.S. IN UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE ON BURMA AND DPRK, BE ABSENT FOR IRAN

REF: A) STATE 117901 B) STATE 93981

¶1. (SBU) Foreign Minister Ahmed Shaheed reported to Ambassador that Maldives would vote against the no-action resolutions on Burma and DPRK and vote in favor of the resolutions. However, citing a common stand taken by the Organization of Islamic Countries, Shaheed said Maldives would not be able to vote in a similar way on the Iran resolution. Instead, the FM instructed his UN delegation to be absent during both the no-action motion as well as the resolution itself. Embassy understands that this represents an improvement in Maldives' position on Third Committee resolutions since last year.

Blake